VERMONT PHŒNIX.

BY WM. E. RYTHER.] BRATTLEBORO, Vt. JUNE 14, 1844. VOL. X.—NO. 42.

SPEECH OF MR. COLLAMER OF VT. ON WOOL AND WOOLENS.

Delivered before the House of Reprs. in Committee of the Whole on the Tariff, April 29, 1844.

MR. CHAIRMAN:—At the commencement of the present session it was my lot to be placed, with other gentlemen, by the selection of the Speaker, on the Committee on Manufactures. It is due to candor to say, that the committee was apparently fairly selected, with a view to that important interest; but its treatment, by the House, since, has convinced me that it was regarded but as a nominal committee, existing but falsely to amuse and gratify the manufacturing interest. All important subjects, which deeply involved that interest, have, by the House, been studiously withholden from that committee, and sent to others very differently constituted. It is, however, true, that some resolutions and memorials, involving the whole subject, have silently, and perhaps accidentally, found their way to that committee, and which have resulted in *a report* prepared and presented, under the order of the committee, by the gentleman from Massachusetts, (Mr. Hudson,) well worthy of the large measure of correct intelligence he possesses on this subject.—That report, which is the only one with which that committee has troubled the House, is *a general one* on the subject; and, in the ordinary courtesy of the House, would have received the order for printing of extra copies, which has been so liberally extended to such reports by the House, even in relation to subjects of infinitely less importance. Yet, though that has been twice moved, it has been promptly, and, as it seems to me, very ungraciously, wholly refused by the majority of the House. While the House has printed, for circulation, the unusual number of twenty thousand copies of the report of its Committee of Ways and Means, (which is professedly intended to utterly withhold and destroy all public countenance or encouragement from home manufactures,) and these copies have been by the franking privilege, sowed broadcast over the land, yet the House utterly deny any measure of assistance to circulate intelligence, or to furnish argument or hearing before the people in behalf of this great interest. I cannot but hope that all, directly or collaterally concerned, may understand what they are to receive at the hands of the party which now holds predominancy in the House of Representatives. But that report is printed without the aid of the House, and will be in the hands of the community; and I am willing to entrust the issue of the general doctrine of public protection to that paper, and shall not now enter upon the general subject.

I am, sir, one of the representatives of a small agricultural State, whose staple production has for some time been the article of wool; and to that subject my remarks will be confined, and more especially as the section of the bill now under consideration relates to the subject of wool and woolens.

There is a species of adventurous credulity which, disdaining the beaten track of truth, is ever catching at the improbability of circumstances, as the better guide of faith and duty; and nearly allied to this is that admiration of *theories* which gratifies the speculative, amuses the curious, and captivates the visionary. I must say, in the words of Patrick Henry, "I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past." I shall therefore proceed to give a very succinct account of the past history of wool, more especially in this country, to show its present condition, and thence to deduce light for our present duty and future action.

Although almost every country on the globe had its sheep, possessing various degrees of fineness of fleece, and adaptation of excellence to its climate, soil, and exegencies, yet it was not until a very recent period that any fine woolled sheep were to be found but in the kingdom of Spain; nor does England now produce any wool from which could be manufactured the coat of any gentleman in this hall. How that race of sheep came into Spain is a question of difficult solution. It has been suggested that they were introduced by the Moors, from the Arabac flocks, at the time so large a part of Spain was in their possession.—But it is also said there is satisfactory evidence that they were there when Spain was a Roman province, and must therefore have been brought in by the Carthagenians. That they were brought into Spain, their name, *Marino*, which, in Spanish, means *from or beyond sea*, clearly implies. These flocks were almost exclusively owned by the crown and the nobility of Spain; and were generally kept among the highlands of Estramadura in the summer, and moved south during the winter, and slowly returned in the spring, so as to be always at grass.—The wool was long exported for manufacture; but the exportation of sheep, without the royal license, was forbidden under the severest penalties—I think, at times, condemnation to the gallies for life. It was from this Spanish wool that the manufacturers of *fine cloths* in Flanders, and France, and England, were long supplied; and it was, ultimately, from these flocks that the world (and we with the rest) has been furnished with fine woolled sheep. The history of the private exportation of these sheep is replete with romantic incident which I must pass over.

The introduction of fine woolled sheep from Spain into the different nations of Europe has generally been effected by the exertions of the crown or the government.—In 1786, Louis XVI. of France procured from the King of Spain a small flock of Marino sheep; and those were put on the National farm of Rambouillet, and great care was extended to them, even through the revolution and the government of Bonaparte. It was from that flock that the sheep through all parts of France have been improved. In 1792, through the medium of Lord Auckland, then English embassador in Spain, George III. procured forty choice Marinos from Spain in exchange for eight fine English coach horses. To this flock some small additions were afterwards made, and it was confided to the care of Sir Joseph Banks, and much pains were taken, and the flock succeeded tolerably. In 1804, this royal flock was sold at auction, with a view to disperse them over the country, and improve the wool. This experiment, however, has not succeeded; nor has another, undertaken for like purpose, about 1810, when the King of England obtained from the Cortes of Spain a larger flock of Marinos, and dispersed them through England. Various causes have contributed to prevent the cultivation of fine wool in England, but I think the principal are these. The corn laws and protective duties of England have given to the production of bread and meat, for their dense population, an encouragement and bounty which render that department of agriculture of vastly more importance than any other. In order to raise wheat, the lands must be manured. It is a law of nature that a fine fleece never grows on a large sheep. To manure the land, the English farmer cultivates turnips in large fields. He folds his sheep, which are of large size, and can endure, unhoused the English winter, on these fields; and they consume the turnips, and lie on the land, and thereby manure the land, so that a crop of wheat, worth on an average over two dollars per bushel, can be produced; and the sheep yield large carcasses of valuable mutton, averaging a weight of one hundred pounds each, which sells at eleven to thirteen cents per pound. These sheep are of three breeds, the Leicester, the Cheviot, and the South Downs; all a long wooled sheep, yielding a fleece of from five to eight pounds, which is only used for worsted and for coarse goods. The Marino sheep are quite too small and weak to endure such treatment, or to promote such objects, and therefore they are not acceptable to English farmers, and do not succeed. The English manufacturers are now still dependant on foreign supply for all their wool for fine broadcloths and kerseymeres.

In Germany the experiment has been entirely successful. In the latter part of the last century the Elector of Saxony procured from the King of Spain a choice selected flock of Marinos. The Elector was an excellent farmer, and he improved and enlarged this flock. It was soon satisfactorily ascertained that the Marino did not degenerate in Saxony; and, in 1778, he imported an additional flock of three hundred, and from these has arisen the *Saxony sheep*.—They are improved Marinos. This improvement has been produced by the mode of treatment and feed, that is, by constantly selecting, entirely with regard to fineness of wool, regardless of symmetry or size, and by keeping them sheltered from the severe heat of the sun, in sheds, during some hours in the hot days of summer, and in warm buildings in winter, and feeding dry fodder, including gram, through the winter. This has rendered the sheep less, and the fleece finer, averaging probably not over two pounds. From the time of their introduction, to the peace of 1814, these sheep were gradually spreading over the kingdom of Saxony. When Europe was relieved from its long protracted succession of continental wars, and the Germans returned to the arts of peace, their patient application, and discriminating perseverence, soon brought their country to an improved condition of husbandry. Germany was soon found sufficient, not only to furnish its own supply of wheat and provisions, but to furnish a large surplus; and these sheep spread into all parts of that country, and have been long since extensively raised, not only in Saxony, but in the Prussian and Austrian states, in Bohemia and Hungary. For some years their wool was all sold to the manufacturers of France, Flanders, and England, and from those countries the Germans received their cloths and other manufactures—more especially from England. After some years, it was found that as England would not receive the provisions of Germany, which was then their, as it is now our, principal production, Germany could not sustain this commerce, and therefore they formed their *commercial union*, and adopted a protective system of duties, which enabled them to prosecute their manufactures with success, and make a home market for their produce. This has lost to England the German market for her cloths and many other articles. John McGregor, Esq., Secretary of the Board of Trade, was sent from England to Germany to inquire into, and endeavor to make some arrangement on this subject.

In 1840, he was examined before a committee of the House of Commons, and, among other matters, he testified: "After the year 1814, when the people of Germany were compelled to become agriculturalists, instead of being engaged as soldiers, in the course of two or three years they produced a great superabundance of agricultural products, and not being able to find a market for that produce either in England or France, in both which the high duties shutting out that produce, the excess of labor, formerly employed in war, and afterwards in agriculture, went into the manufactures of Westphalia and Silesia. The argument they made use of to us on erery occasion, both in Prussia and Saxony, and in the Rhenish States, and particularly at the two congresses held at Munich and Dresden, was this; You compelled us to become manufacturers. We have not mines of gold and silver, and you would not take what we had to sell you. As you would not take it, necessity compelled our people to turn their attention to manufactures. The German grazier now exchanges his cattle and his beef fabrics with the home manufacturer, and the corn dealer and miller provide bread for the manufacturer, and take his goods in return. This was the common saying in Prussia, where every man is *intelligent*, and where every man *thinks*, and where, as soon as he sees an effect, he immediately inquires into the cause." Are we incapable of as high degree of discernment as these Germans? Cannot we profit by their intelligence and experience? German broadcloths are now successfully competing with English in the markets of the world, and with ours in our own market.

England, ever watchful of her interest, as nations should be, has turned her attention to a new source of self-supply. Having ascertained that her farmers will not use the fine woolled sheep, and that a supply from the continent was too much a state of dependence, attention has been turned to her own colonies. At the sale of the Marino flock of George III., in 1804, of which I have spoken, a few were purchased by Captain McArthur, which were carried to New South Wales. In a few years it was ascertained that they succeeded well in that country. A large quantity of the Saxony sheep were then sent, and so rapid has been the increase, that in 1841, there was imported into England, of this fine wool, from Australia, that is, from New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land, 9,600,000 lbs.

This Australia wool has been imported into this country in large quantities.

We will now take a brief historic view of wool in this country. Up to the commencement of the Revolution, very little attention was directed to this subject. Our people had a few coarse wool sheep, more kept for mutton than wool, and all woollen cloths were furnished from England. Immediately before the commencement of that war, and in anticipation thereof, some exertions were made to arouse attention to domestic manufacture of woollen cloth, but the efforts were but in a very slight degree successful. Through the long protracted agonies of that struggle, no one thing more contributed to the severity of its sufferings than the want of clothing and blankets. In a few years after the close of that war, Europe became involved in wars which continued, with but short interruptions, until 1814, and during all that time, until we became involved in 1812, we were the carriers of the world, and Europe readily took of us, at high prices, whatever of agricultural produce we had to spare. In this condition of things, we could buy woollens easier than raise wool, and little attention was given to the subject. Our coarse woolled sheep naturally increased, and some large Irish sheep were introduced, but of no finer fleece. In 1802, Chancellor Livingston, then our minister in France, procured from the Rambouillet flock, of which I have already spoken, three Marino sheep, and sent them unto his farm in New York. That number was too small to produce any immediate or great effect. Within four or five years after this, Gen. Humphries, then our minister to Spain, succeeded in getting out of that country a considerable number of Marinos, which were sent to Connecticut.

As the troubles in our foreign relations began to thicken for a tempest, our dependent condition in regard to clothing was impressed on the mind of every discerning patriot, and the scenes and sufferings of the Revolution were recalled to memory. Much anxiety was felt to put the country in a better attitude in this respect.

In 1809, at the second invasion of Spain under Joseph Bonaparte, the Supreme Junta was driven from Madrid and retired to Badajos. Being without money they were compelled to sell four of the first flocks in Spain, among which was the Paular flock, previously owned by the Prince of Peace.—Those sheep were sold with the license of taking them out of the country. Hon. William Jarvis, then our consul at Lisbon, now living in Vermont, purchased three thousand six hundred; fourteen hundred of which were of the Paular flock. Other gentlemen purchased for other countries, and a few more for this country. All these sheep, amounting to over four thousand, were shipped to the United States in 1809, 1810, and fore part of 1811, and were landed and disposed of in Richmond, Alexandria, and the various cities as far north as Boston. These sheep were distributed into the country, and purchased by the farmers with avidity; and I have seen a small buck sold for four hundred dollars. Our coarse woolled sheep were crossed with this breed; and by continuing to use only full blood bucks, the whole has become as fine as three-quarters blood Marino. Some flocks have been kept of pure blood Marino, and the wool has not deteriorated.

The war of 1812, however, took place before any considerable progress had been made in this enterprise, and we were compelled to endure its sufferings, greatly dependent on foreign supply and on our own enemy for woollens. Some gentlemen present may still recollect the consequences. I will merely say I have known fourteen dollars given for a soldier's blanket; and my personal experience and observation at that period taught me a lesson I shall not be likely to forget. From the pressure of necessity some small factories of broadcloth sprung up in America during that war, and the making of domestic cloths in the family was increased and improved. After the conclusion of that war, and in view of its lessons, was framed the general tariff act of 1816. The general average of duties in that act was fifteen per cent.; but to encourage the infant woollen factories a duty was imposed on all important woollens of twenty-five per cent. This was a distinct expression of the desire and will of this Government to encourage and sustain the policy of rendering this country, as soon as practicable, independent of foreign supply of this article of vital necessity. The progress of the production of wool had not then been sufficient to supply the family use and furnish the raw material to the manufacturer, and therefore no duty was laid on wool; but the manufacturer was left free to obtain it at home or procure it abroad, and import it free of any extra duty. Eight years passed away under the operation of this law.—Our improved breed of sheep gradually spread over the northern, middle, and western part of the United States, and the number of sheep was rapidly increased, and began to supply the factories with considerable quantities of domestic wool. It was now understood, that in order to render the country independent, it was not only necessary to have our woollens *manufactured* in the country, but it was also necessary to have factories supplied with the raw material within the country; and, therefore, to effect this object, and to furnish encouragement to the agricultural interest in the growth of wool, was passed the tariff act of 1824. That was the first law imposing an extra duty on wool. The duty on woollens was increased, and a duty of twenty per cent., increasing to thirty, was imposed on all fine wool, that is, on all wool costing over ten cents per pound. Under this law the fine woolled sheep greatly increased, but still much fine wool was imported, and our factories furnished but a very partial supply of woollens for our market. In 1823 a few Saxony sheep were imported. In 1824 Messrs. G. & T. Searle, of Boston, imported seventy-five bucks and ewes, which were scattered into different parts of New England and New York. The next year there was an importation of one hundred and fifty. Some of these sold at four hundred dollars each. This excited speculation, and in 1826 two thousand five hundred Saxony sheep were imported. These Saxony sheep are a smaller and finer woolled sheep than the Marinos from Spain. They have succeeded best, and prevail most in the milder parts of our country, from New York to Virginia, and in the Western States.

Four years passed away under the act of 1824, and our farmers governed themselves by its policy, though New England had not thus far ever voted, by a majority of its delegation in Congress, for it. It had its effect: but it was ascertained that much of that effect was destroyed by the introduction of foreign woollens, under false invoices, at prices ruinous to the fair trader and manufacturer, and destructive to the intended operation of the act of 1824, formed for the encouragement of the farmer. This produced the meeting at Harrisburg, which caused the act of 1828, so lavishly abused now as "*the bill of abominations.*" It is true that political causes, from other sinster motives, gave to that bill some objectionable features, which gave it a character of *ultraism;* but under the influence of that law the woollen manufactory lifted up its head, and the wool growing interest broadly and rapidly extended.

In 1833 came the compromise act, establishing a scale of reduction of duties, which gave to this interest a regular *decline.* By the operation of that law, on the 31st of December, 1841, the duty on wool and woollens came down to twenty-eight per cent. To this point the factories struggled on, but here they stopped; and no market was found for the clip of wool taken from the sheep in the spring of 1842. It became practically certain that it was utterly useless to protect wool while manufactured woollens were imported at reduced duties. It was like the one broom-maker who asked the other how he could sell his brooms so cheap; for said he, "*I steal my timber*, and yet I cannot make them so cheap." "Oh," says the other, "I steal my brooms *already made.*" Our manufacturers stopped purchasing wool because they could go no further. I utterly deny that it was done for any other cause. Men who have invested their all in factories never close them while they can proceed and prosper. With their wool of 1842 on hand our farmers looked with anxiety to the action of Congress. No sales were made, except a small quantity, when information came of the passage of the *little tariff* bill. This was immediately stopped by the news of the veto.

When the tariff act of 1842 passed, it would have produced an immediate effect, but there came, booming over the troubled waters after it, the war cry of *repeal, repeal,* which destroyed its operation; and it was not until the news from Tennessee, informing us of the prospect of the election of two Whig Senators, gave some degree of confidence to its stability, that the manufacturers began, cautiously, to purchase wool. Since then this interest has slowly progressed, and American wool has risen from twenty to twenty-five cents per pound to thirty-five and forty cents. These prices are not so high as were received formerly under the operation of the act of 1828, and in the inflated times of 1836, but they are living prices, and have the hope of stability.

From this brief history of this subject, and as the result of our own experience, I draw these conclusions: First. That the production and improvement of wool was introduced into this country, from public necessity, by the encouragement of the Government. Second. That our citizens have been induced by the Government to embark their labor and capital in this pursuit.—Third. That the manufactures of wool must be protected and fostered by discriminating duties, or no market can be found for the wool-grower. Fourth. That experiment has shown that this interest rises and declines as the fostering care of Government is furnished or withdrawn.

It is idle, trifling, and worse, for practical legislators to indulge in visionary speculations of legislating for mankind, or our country, as if all things *were* as they *should* be; or indulge in the Eutopian notion that nations and men are by us to be placed in state of perfectability. We must look at things as they in fact now are. Let us now inquire what is in fact the extent and condition of this woollen interest. If it be still of little importance, and is standing in the way of greater interests, it may be policy to offer it up as a sacrifice and holocaust to national prosperity; and in such case the sufferers must take to themselves the consolation of having suffered for their country's good. But if it is found to have become a great interest, interesting great numbers of our people, and prosecuted without injury to any, and with national advantage, then I trust it may not be offered up at the fiat of party domination.—*(Concluded next week.)*

CENTRE OF POPULATION OF THE U. STATES. At a late meeting of the National Institute, as we learn from the National Intelligencer, Dr. Patterson, Director of the United States Mint at Philadelphia, read an interesting paper upon the best modes of ascertaining the centre of population of a County or a State, or of the whole Union. He made a statement in relation to the centre of *representative* population of the United States at the date of each census, as follows:

In 1790, the centre of population was in Baltimore County, Maryland, 13 miles south of the Pennsylvania line and 17 miles north of Baltimore; 46 miles north, 22 east and 51 in a straight line from the city of Washington.

In 1800, it was in Carroll County, Maryland, 7 miles south of the Pennsylvania line, and 9 miles northeast of Westminster; 52 miles north, 9 east, and 53 in a straight line from Washington.

In 1810, it was in Adams County, Pennsylvania, 5 miles north of Mason & Dixon's line, and 17 west of Gettysburg; 64 miles north, 30 west and 17 in a straight line from Washington.

In 1820, it was in the western part of Morgan County, Virginia, 10 miles west southwest of Bath, and 1 from the Potomac; 47 miles north, 71 west and 86 in a straight line from Washington.

In 1830, it was in Hampshire County, Virginia, opposite to Westernport, Maryland, and 20 miles northwest of Romney, 16 miles south of the Pennsylvania line; 43 miles north, 87 west and 117 in a straight line from Washington.

In 1840, it was in Marion County, Virginia, 23, miles south of the Pennsylvania line, and 19 miles northwest of Clarksburg; 36 miles north, 160 west and 165 in a straight line from Washington.

The centre of *total* population in 1840 was in Harrison County, Virginia, 38 miles south of Pennsylvania line, five miles due north of Clarksburg; 21 miles north, 175 west, and 177 in a straight line from Washington.

It will be seen that the centre of population has moved westward 197 miles in 50 years.—The Louisville Register says, "After the next census we can and we must have the seat of Government removed to the West." By this plan the editor says the question of "Abolition in the District" will be got rid of, and after a few Massachusetts, New York, Virginia, and South Carolina members have been blown up with Mississippi steam they will *afterwards* willingly vote appropriations for the improvement of the navigation of the western waters!

MAYOR HARPER AND THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE.—Already we begin to see that the declarations of our new Mayor, in his message, unlike those made by many of his predecessors, really meant something. On last Sunday a very marked evidence of the reforming spirit which he has promised to manifest, was exhibited in the closure of many low groggeries and rum shops in various quarters of the city. Every friend of good order and morality must be gratified by this. These vile haunts of dissipation and Sabbath profanation have been a sad disgrace to our city, and we trust that before the year be terminated, many, if not all, of those low drinking shops will be closed forever.

By removing the means and incentives to drunkenness amongst the lower classes, a death-blow is struck at the root of a vast amount of vice, profligacy and crime of large cities. We have every confidence that under the administration of Mayor Harper and his colleagues, much will be done to eradicate the demoralising vice of intemperance, and to promote those habits of sobriety which are the only sure foundation of individual and social order, prosperity and happiness. Mr. Harper's warm and energetic attachment to the cause of temperance, was not one of the least of his recommendations to the suffrages of the enlightened and order-loving portion of his fellow citizens, and there is no fear that his devotion to that cause will be less ardent and active now that he occupies the honorable and responsible office of Mayor of this mighty metropolis. We perceive that a new association, called the 'United Brothers of Temperance,' has been organized under his auspices. This society combines benevolent and charitable purposes with the grand object of the reformation of the inebriate, and the prevention of intemperance. It is composed of a number of highly respectable and influential men, and promises to be very popular and successful. Through its agency and the influence of Mayor Harper, we expect to see a great impetus given to the temperance cause in this city, and throughout the country indeed, and which the mission of Father Mathew will increase to a mighty and overwhelming enthusiasm.—[N. Y. Herald.

From the Montpelier Watchman.

A FACT.—We heard an old revolutionary patriot say the other day, in Orange county, that he had lost $60 by reading the Vermont Patriot. We asked him in what way he had lost that sum. "Why," said he, "I read the Patriot last summer, and it said that the present Tariff would not help the wool-growers, and, believing what it said, I sold my wool the first time I had an offer for it. But," said he, "I shall never be deceived by it again, for I will never believe what it says." The above is literally true. We trust there are many more who will not be deceived by what these locofoco British Democrats say.

A Friend of a Tariff.

WESTERN RAILROAD.—Receipts for the week ending May 25.

	1844.	1843.
Passengers,	$6473	$5504
Freight, &c.,	7825	6767
Total,	$14,298	$12,271